Grants to Mangalore Municipal Council for acquiring sites for schools.

*361 Q.—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised the Municipal Council, Mangalore, a subsidy not exceeding one-half of the actual cost subject to the maximum of Rs. 1,515 towards the cost of the acquisition of land for the extension of the municipal elementary school at Bolar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to pay the promised subsidy after the acquisition of the said land on the ground that the cost of the acquisition has exceeded the original estimate;

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to pay at least the amount promised; if not, why not;

(d) whether it is a fact that a similar subsidy was promised towards the acquisition of a site for the market ward school; and

(e) whether the said subsidy has been paid after the acquisition of the site; and, if not, for what reasons?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The payment of subsidy was refused because (1) it was reported that the building on the site had been altered after the promise of a subsidy, was quite unsuitable for school purposes and should be demolished and (2) the previous sanction of Government to the revised estimate had not been obtained. The Government do not propose to reconsider the orders already passed.

(d) Yes.

(e) A subsidy not exceeding Rs. 10,500 was promised in 1926, towards the purchase of buildings for four schools of which the Market Ward School was one.

In 1929 the council proposed to construct buildings for *two* of the schools at a cost far in excess of the original estimate for the *four* schools and to defer the construction of buildings for the other two schools for want of funds, the Market Ward School being one of these. The council was asked to prepare plans and estimates for the two schools on a more economical basis and to submit them for the consideration of Government. In 1930 the council requested the payment of a subsidy for a site purchased for the Market Ward School against its previous decision to postpone the scheme for the construction of a building for the school. It did not also submit revised plans and estimates for buildings for the two other schools referred to. Payment of a subsidy was refused as the Government considered that the council should have confined its attention to immediate requirements instead of purchasing a site which would not be required in the near future.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know why the Government are not willing to pay at least the promised subsidy though not the excess sum involved?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The reason is not really the amount involved but the unsuitability of the building for purposes of a school."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"May I know what the objection is for giving the promised subsidy at least ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"As a matter of fact the subsidy was intended for the acquisition of a site for school, and so I do not think the Government would be justified in giving a subsidy for the site when the building put up was unsuitable and had to be demolished and a new one has been erected without the sanction of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"Then may I know whether Government will pay any subsidy towards the cost of the site only ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"When that proposal comes forward, it will be considered."

Mr. M S. Sreshta :—"Is it correct to say that an unsuitable building was put up by the Municipal Council ? I believe the unsuitable building was there already. May I know if that is correct ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Possibly it may be. But the point is that it was unsuitable for locating a school and it was demolished and a new building was erected."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta :—"In view of the fact that the original building was not put up by the Municipal Council, and because it was unsuitable for a school another building had to be put up by the Municipal Council, will the hon. Minister revise his order ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"I shall look into the matter. I cannot promise that I shall revise."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"Is it not a fact that that building was recommended by the District Educational authorities for a school ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Notice, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"If it had been recommended by the Educational authorities will Government give the full subsidy ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"That is purely a hypothetical question."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta :—"In view of the fact that the excess amount is only about Rs. 350, will the Government pay the subsidy ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"There is no question of excess amount. It is a question of the original subsidy itself."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*e*), it is said that the Council was asked to prepare the plans and estimates on a more economical basis. May I know what are the items that were considered to be extravagant by Government ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Notice, Sir."